

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 07861 01 OF 02 101611Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----057754 101614Z /53

O 101600Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6545  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 07861

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR EG ET SO NI OAU  
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL FOR OGADEN NEGOTIATIONS

SUMMARY: GOE HAS URGED ETHIOPIA TO MAKE RECIPROCAL  
GESTURE TO SOMALI WITHDRAWAL FROM OGADEN IN ORDER TO  
DIMINISH SOVIET ROLE. GOE PROPOSING IMMEDIATE MEETING  
OF OAU MEDIATION COMMITTEE IN CAIRO FOR DAY OR TWO  
FOLLOWING WHICH IT WOULD PROCEED TO MEDIATE DIRECTLY  
WITH PARTIES. PRINCIPAL GOE OBJECTIVE APPEARS TO BE  
TO PUT OAU "ON THE RUSSIANS' BACK" AS MEANS OF DIMINISHING  
THEIR PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA. GOE ALSO THINKING ABOUT  
OBSERVER FORCE FOR OGADEN WHICH MIGHT REQUIRE SOME U.S.  
LOGISTICAL ASSISTANCE. GOE HOPES THAT MENGISTU CAN BE  
ENCOURAGED TO EXERT INDEPENDENCE FROM SOVIETS CONTRA-  
DICTS EARLIER ASSESSMENT THAT HE SOVIET PUPPET. END  
SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 07861 01 OF 02 101611Z

1. MFA UNDERSECRETARY AHMED OSMAN URGENTLY SUMMONED  
POLCOUNS MARCH 10 TO DISCUSS EGYPTIAN THINKING IN LIGHT  
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SOMALI FORCES TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM  
OGADEN. OSMAN HAD TALKED TO ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR PRIOR  
TO SEEING POLCOUNS AND WAS IN PROCESS OF ATTEMPTING  
CONTACT NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR.

2. OSMAN, WHO ACCOMPANIED BY MFA AFRICA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AMB AHMED SIDQI, SAID HE HAD JUST URGED UPON ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR NECESSITY FOR EPMG TO MAKE SOME GESTURE IN RESPONSE TO SOMALI DECLARATION. OSMAN SAID HE HAD STRESSED, AS COUNTRY WITH MUCH EXPERIENCE WITH SOVIETS, THAT SOMALI ACTION GAVE ETHIOPIA OPPORTUNITY TO GET OUT FROM UNDER SOVIET CONTROL. IT SHOULD, THEREFORE, MAKE IMMEDIATE CONCILIATORY GESTURE ON ITS OWN, WITHOUT INSTRUCTION FROM SOVIET ADVISORS.

3. OSMAN THEN OUTLINED EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL WHICH, HE NOTED, MIGHT NEED U.S. SUPPORT. FONMIN KAMEL WOULD LATER TODAY BE SENDING MESSAGE TO CHAIRMAN OAU MEDIATION COMMITTEE NIGERIAN FONMIN GARBA, PROPOSING THAT COMMITTEE MEET IMMEDIATELY IN CAIRO FOR ONE OR TWO DAYS TO ASCERTAIN FACTS AND THEN TO MEDIATE BETWEEN SOMALIS AND ETHIOPIANS. OSMAN JUSTIFIED CAIRO AS SITE BY ITS PROXIMITY TO HORN, FACILITIES AND COMMUNICATIONS, AND AVAILABILITY AFRICAN AMBASSADORS TO MEET WITH COMMITTEE.

4. OSMAN'S FURTHER REASON FOR WANTING PRELIMINARY CONCILIATION MEETING IN CAIRO SEEMED TO BE THAT GOE WISHED TO BRING GARBA TO CAIRO TO IMPRESS UPON HIM AND OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS NECESSITY OF CUTTING SOVIETS OUT OF OGADEN PEACE MAKING PROCESS. OSMAN OPINED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 07861 01 OF 02 101611Z

THAT IF EGYPT HAD COUPLE OF DAYS TO WHIP CONCILIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS INTO SHAPE ON ISSUE OF SPLITTING ETHIOPIA AWAY FROM SOVIETS THEN, WITH COMBINED EGYPTIAN-NIGERIAN LEADERSHIP MODERATE AFRICAN FORCES MIGHT IN END SUCCEED IN SALVAGING SITUATION IN OGADEN. OSMAN AWARE THAT SOVIETS UNLIKELY FAVOR CAIRO VENUE, BUT CONCLUDED THAT SOVIETS WILL BE POWERLESS TO OPPOSE GENUINE OAU CONCILIATION EFFORTS. WHOLE PURPOSE OF GOE PROPOSAL WAS TO COMPLEMENT U.S. POSITION BY "GETTING THE OAU ON THE RUSSIANS' BACK."

5. OSMAN THEN TURNED TO QUESTION OF OBSERVER FORCE TO OVERSEE CEASEFIRE AND SOMALI WITHDRAWAL. ASKED THAT USG QUIETLY BEGIN CONSIDERING WAYS OF ASSISTING DEPLOYMENT OF SUCH A FORCE. GOE REALIZED THAT UN OBSERVER FORCE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE IN VIEW CERTAIN SOVIET VETO BUT OSMAN OPINED THAT, WITH PROPER URGING BY GARBA OR OAU PRESIDENT BONGO, OAU MIGHT BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH SOME TYPE OF TEMPORARY FORCE. GOE AWARE THAT SOVIETS WOULD NOT RELISH IDEA OF OBSERVER FORCE BUT OSMAN STRESSED THAT, DESPITE ALL WATER OVER DAM, GOE HAS GOT TO GIVE MENGISTU CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE IN FACT AFRICAN

NATIONALIST AND NOT SOVIET PUPPET.

6. OSMAN THEN TURNED TO QUESTION OF POSSIBLE UNSC MEETING. GOE DOES NOT BELIEVE UNSC MEETING AT THIS TIME WOULD ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING CONCRETE, GIVEN INEVITABLE SOVIET VETO, BUT THOUGHT THAT KEEPING PROSPECT OF UNSC SESSION ALIVE MIGHT KEEP SOVIET FEET TO FIRE AND ENCOURAGE THEIR COOPERATION WITH OAU. OSMAN DID NOT BELIEVE SOVIETS WANTED ANY INTERNATIONALIZATION OF OGADEN DISPUTE NOW

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 07861 02 OF 02 101615Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----057833 101617Z /53

O 101600Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6546  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 07861

EXDIS

THAT ETHIOPIANS WINNING BUT OPINED THAT SOVIETS WOULD FIND IT HARMFUL TO THEIR DESIGNS IN AFRICA AS A WHOLE TO OPPOSE MEANINGFUL OAU INTERVENTION TO RESOLVE PROBLEM OF OGADEN.

7. COMMENT: MFA EXPERTS CLEARLY ENGAGED IN DAMAGE-LIMITING OPERATION NOW THAT POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA COLLAPSING. NEVERTHELESS, BELIEVE DEPT WILL FIND GOE DESIRE TO PUT OAU INTO PICTURE COMPATIBLE WITH OUR POLICY. HOWEVER, IT DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW CAIRO CAN BE CONSIDERED NEUTRAL CAPITAL. GOE HOPE THAT ETHIOPIA EAGER TO DECLARE INDEPENDENCE FROM SOVIETS CONTRADICTS STATEMENTS MADE PREVIOUS DAY TO EMBOFFS BY AMBASSADOR SIDQI WHO OPINED THAT MENGISTU IS CREATURE OF SOVIETS AND SOVIETS HAVE NO INTENTION OF LEAVING ETHIOPIA IN NEAR FUTURE. SIDQI PREDICTED THAT SOVIETS WERE INTERESTED IN ASSISTING

ETHIOPIA IN A PROTRACTED ASSAULT ON ERITREAN REBELS  
("THE LONGER THE BETTER") IN ORDER TO EXTEND OVER SEVERAL  
YEARS EPMG DEPENDENCE ON MOSCOW.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 07861 02 OF 02 101615Z

8. AS PART OF EFFORT TO PUT SITUATION IN BEST LIGHT,  
GOE IS LIKELY TO CLAIM CREDIT FOR PERSUADING PRES SIAD  
TO MAKE HIS STATEMENT ON OGADEN WITHDRAWAL. SIDQI NOTED  
PREVIOUS DAY THAT FONMIN KAMEL HAD URGED UPON SOMALI FON-  
MIN ABD AL RAHMAN JAMA BARRE DURING DISCUSSIONS MARCH 8  
NECESSITY OF MAKING STATEMENT OF INTENT CONCERNING WITH-  
DRAWAL. FROM CAIRO VANTAGE POINT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT  
MILITARY RESULTS ON GROUND PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE.

9. IN VIEW OF UNAVAILABILITY OF NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR  
AFTERNOON MARCH 10, GOE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GET INVI-  
TATION TO LAGOS UNTIL FOLLOWING DAY ALTHOUGH EGYPTIANS  
WERE DISCUSSING AMONG THEMSELVES DISPATCHING CAR FOR  
NIGERIAN DIRECTLY AFTER POLCOUNS DEPARTURE.  
OSMAN MADE POINT OF FACT THAT HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED  
PROPOSAL FOR OAU MEDIATION COMMITTEE MEETING WITH ETHIO-  
PIAN AMBASSADOR. EILTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CAIRO07861  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780108-0467  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** CAIRO  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780384/aaaactau.tel  
**Line Count:** 197  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 20b4acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3377799  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL FOR OGADEN NEGOTIATIONS SUMMARY: GOE HAS URGED ETHIOPIA TO MAKE RECIPROCAL GESTURE TO SOMALI WITHDRAWAL FROM OGADEN IN ORDER  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PDEV, EG, ET, SO, NI, OAU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvgwkey:** odbcr://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/20b4acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014